

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 254909

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ARDAY:GCB

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

M:FSPOTTS

S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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O 261832Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254909

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION

REF: GODLEY-DAY TELECON

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

1. WE FULLY SUPPORT YOUR INTENTION TO PROCEED RAPIDLY WITH MOVEMENT OF REGIONAL PERSONNEL WHOSE OFFICES ARE TO BE RE-LOCATED. WE WILL BE INFORMING YOU JUST AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE WHEN RELOCATION SITES (STATE 24998) ARE DEFINITE. IF YOU FEEL SOME PERSONNEL SHOULD GO TO INTERIM EVACUATION SAFEHAVEN PENDING SUCH A FINAL DETERMINATION, LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN CHECK TO SEE HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO FIXING THE FINAL SITE.

2. AS DAY MENTIONED TO YOU, WE SHARE YOUR GROWING CONCERN ABOUT SAFETY OF OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN

BEIRUT AS FIGHTING MOVES INTO THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY LIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 254909

AND WORK. YOU ARE CERTAINLY THE BEST JUDGE AS TO THE TIMING

OF ANY EVACUATION MOVES, BUT I WANT YOU TO BE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN AND OF OUR SUPPORT FOR SUCH STEPS AS YOU MAY DECIDE ARE NECESSARY. WE HAVE IN MIND, OF COURSE, NOT ONLY

THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN ITSELF BUT ALSO THE GREATLY COMPLICATED EVACUATION SITUATION WE WOULD FACE IF WE WAITED UNTIL SECURITY HAD DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE NORMAL TRANSPORTATION WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE. YOU ARE AN OLD HAND AT THIS BUSINESS, AND I KNOW YOU WILL BE WEIGHING ALL THESE FACTORS IN YOUR OWN CALCULATIONS.

3. WE ALL CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED AND VERY APPRECIATIVE AT MAGNIFICENT JOB YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE DOING UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: OCT PASS MPI.

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